## Message Text

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS:EAGR - EEC- EFIS SUBJECT:EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS: FISH

**REF: EC BRUSSELS 2545** 

AFTER THREE SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 25-27, THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ABANDONED ITS EFFORT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON AN INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME FOR FISH. COMMISSON PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME FOR

WERE AIMED PRIMARILY AT STAVING OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF UNILATERAL IRISH CONSERVATION MEASURES (REFTEL). THE MINISTERS ACHIEVED A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNAL REGIME WHICH WOULD HAVE FIXED QUOTAS FOR THE FISHING AREAS SURROUNDING IRELAND. THE QUOTAS WOULD HAVE PROVIDED FOR AN INCREASE OF SOME 30 PERCENT IN THE IRISH FISH CATCH IN THESE AREAS AND A REDUCTION IN THE CATCHES OF OTHER MEMBER STATES. THE INTERIM UNCLASSIFIED

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REGIME WOULD HAVE LASTED ONLY UNTIL JUNE 30, 1977. THE UK, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO PERMIT THE INCLUSION OF CATCHES WITHIN THEIR COASTAL "RESERVED ZONE" OF 6 TO 12 MILES IN THE CALCULATION OF THE QUOTAS. THE OTHER MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION COULD NOT ACCEPT EXCLUSION OF THIS ZONE. IT IS NOW EXPECTED THAT THE IRISH WILL ADOPT UNILATERAL CONSERVATION MEASURES LATER THIS WEEK. RATHER THAN THE MEASURES LIMITING BOAT SIZES PREVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED,

THE IRISH SAY THEY ARE CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVE OF SETTING QUOTAS FOR IRISH WATER IN LINE WITH THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS.

THE COMMISSION IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE TRYING TO FORMULATE A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD PUT AN EC COVER ON THESE IRISH MEASURES.

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